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EXAMINER

WINTER, JOHN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3685

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/26/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/675,857

Applicant(s)

SAARINEN ET AL.

Examiner

JOHN M. WINTER

Art Unit

3685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 75-133 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 75-133 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgements

The Applicants amendment filed on August April 4, 2008 is hereby acknowledged,
Claims 75- 133 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §101

35 U.S.C. §101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 75 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Based on Supreme Court precedent¹ and recent Federal Circuit decisions, § 101 process must (1) be tied to another statutory class (such as a particular apparatus) or (2) transform underlying subject matter (such as an article or materials) to a different state or thing. If neither of these requirements is met by the claim(s), the method is not a patent eligible process under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

In this particular case, claim 75 recites dynamically changing a ticket characteristic provided by a mobile terminal, the Examiner submits that this fails to transform underlying subject matter (the mobile terminal) to a different state.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 75-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 75 contains the term “ticket characteristic”, the Examiner construes the term characteristic to mean “a distinguishing trait, quality, or property” the Examiner contends that the claimed limitation encompasses any conceivable property of the ticket (e.g. location, function, design etc...) and is therefore non-limiting and indefinite.

Claims 76-133 are either dependant upon claim 75 or contain a similar limitation and are rejected for at least the same reasons.

Claim 85 contains the indefinite term and/or.

Claim 86 contains the term “legal”, this term is indefinite since it is unclear what law is used to determine the “legality” of the ticket.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

¹ *Diamond v. Diehr*, 450 U.S. 175, 184 (1981); *Parker v. Flook*, 437 U.S. 584, 588 n.9 (1978); *Gottschalk v. Benson*, 409 U.S. 63, 70 (1972); *Cochrane v. Deener*, 94 U.S. 780, 787-88 (1876).

Claims 75-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over in view of Lee (US Patent 2002/0111909) in view of Izumoto (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0004762)

As per claim 75,

Lee ('909) discloses a method comprising:

providing an active ticket for use by a mobile terminal user; and

dynamically changing a ticket characteristic of the active ticket provided based on one or more states in a life cycle of the active ticket. (Paragraphs 38-39)

Lee ('909) does not explicitly disclose providing a mobile terminal. Izumoto ('762) discloses providing a host operating system (Figure 1, Abstract). It would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Lee ('909) method with Izumoto ('762)'s teaching in order to allow a user to interact with the device.

As per claim 76,

Lee ('909) discloses A method according to claim 75, wherein dynamic changes to the ticket characteristic include multimedia changes or other presentation data, including text, sound, animation, video, still pictures, or some combination thereof (Paragraph 39).

As per claim 77,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,

wherein the one or more states in the life cycle include a state of being either purchased, validated, invalidated, template, pre-valid, prepared, or some combination thereof for one or

more different events. (Paragraph 41-42)

As per claim 78,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,
wherein the ticket characteristic dynamically changes based on a payment by the user of
the mobile terminal. (Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 79,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,
wherein the ticket characteristic dynamically changes based on a predetermined time,
status or combination thereof. (Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 80,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,
wherein the ticket characteristic dynamically changes based on a predetermined or
changing geographic location. (Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 81,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,
wherein the ticket characteristic dynamically changes based on a purchase transaction
between a user of the mobile terminal and a ticket service provider. (Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 82,

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Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,
wherein a ticket service provider provides future ticket characteristic information to the mobile terminal that determines and/or activates the ticket characteristic. (Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 83,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 75,
wherein the ticket characteristic information includes ticket characteristic control data, a ticket characteristic algorithm, a new set of ticket related media or a combination thereof.
(Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 84,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 83,
wherein the ticket characteristic control data includes new control data to change the ticket characteristic algorithm or other presentation data, including new parameter values.(Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 85,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 83,
wherein the control data is received at a certain time and/or location, or just before the at least one active ticket is to be used. (Paragraphs 38-39)

As per claim 86,

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Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 83,
wherein the control data is sent to only legally purchased tickets based on a respective identification code associated with a respective mobile terminal. (Paragraphs 37-41)

As per claim 87,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 83,
wherein the at least one active ticket is validated using visual or audio validation based on the ticket characteristic. (Paragraph 41)

As per claim 88,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 87,
wherein the visual or audio validation is performed by either a human, or a machine, or some combination thereof. (Paragraph 41)

As per claim 89,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 82,
wherein the I ticket service provider provides the ticket characteristic information to the mobile terminal via the Internet or a mobile network. (Paragraph 38)

As per claim 90,
Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 82,

Lee does not specifically disclose “the ticket service provider provides the ticket characteristic information to the mobile terminal using a Java-based protocol, e.g. MIDP Over-the-Air approach.” Official Notice is taken that “the ticket service provider provides the ticket characteristic information to the mobile terminal using a Java-based protocol, e.g. MIDP Over-the-Air approach.” is common and well known in prior art in reference to transaction protocols. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide ticket characteristic information to the mobile terminal using a Java-based protocol in order to increase the compatibility of the system with a larger number of commercially available phones.

Claim 91 is in parallel with claim 90 and is rejected for at least the same reasons.

As per claims 92-94,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 1, Lee does not specifically disclose “wherein the ticket characteristic is an audio ticket characteristic and the audio validation is based a relative frequency change” Official Notice is taken that “wherein the ticket characteristic is an audio ticket characteristic and the audio validation is based a relative frequency change as well as an audio watermark embedded therein using a secret key..” is common and well known in prior art in reference to transaction protocols. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize an audible signal in conjunction with a watermark for ticket validation in order to prevent forging of the ticket.

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As per claim 95,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 93,

wherein the at least one active ticket is implemented using a protocol based on Mobile electronic Transactions (MET), including the MeT ticket format, (Paragraph 38 [Examiner notes ticket is based on a specification for a transaction])

As per claim 96,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 95,

wherein the MeT ticket format contains only a template for a pre-valid active ticket.
(Paragraph 38)

As per claim 97,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 95,

wherein the mobile transaction (MET) ticket format contains valid ticket information for a valid active ticket. (Paragraphs 35-37)

As per claim 98,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 97,

wherein the valid ticket information is removed from the MeT ticket for a used active ticket. (Paragraph 44)

As per claims 108-109,

Lee ('909) discloses a method according to claim 1,

Lee does not specifically disclose “generating with a ticket issuer a root key, which can derive a number of seed keys;

distributing the seed keys to users before issuing the active ticket; broadcasting a command encryption by the root key to indicate which of the seed keys can be used for decryption based on data managed by the ticket service provider; and

allowing a user who is holding a valid seed key, which are allowed to decrypt the command package, to decrypt a command package and upgrade the ticket characteristic to a valid one.”

Official Notice is taken that “generating with a ticket issuer a root key, which can derive a number of seed keys;

distributing the seed keys to users before issuing the active ticket; broadcasting a command encryption by the root key to indicate which of the seed keys can be used for decryption based on data managed by the ticket service provider; and

allowing a user who is holding a valid seed key, which are allowed to decrypt the command package, to decrypt a command package and upgrade the ticket characteristic to a valid one...” is common and well known in prior art in reference to transaction protocols. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize an encryption protocol in order to prevent forging of the ticket.

Claims 99-107, 110 and 111-133 are not patenably distinct from claims 75-98, contain the same claimed features and are rejected for at least the same reasons.

Response to Arguments

The Applicant's arguments entered on April 8, 2008 have been fully considered.

The Amended claims are rejected as being unpatentable over Lee (US Patent 2002/0111909) in view of Izumoto (US Patent Application Publication 2002/0004762).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN M. WINTER whose telephone number is (571)272-6713. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6, 1st Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Fischer can be reached on (571) 272-6779. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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John Winter

Patent Examiner – 3685

/Jalatee Worjloh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3685